

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Spacer for panes of multilayer insulating glass units, especially for use in windows, doors or the like, which consists of an open or closed, rectangular hollow section (1), which can be filled with moisture-absorbing material and whose interior space (4) for the moisture-absorbing material is bounded by at least two side walls (10) and a rear wall (5), wherein the interior space (4) communicates with the space (21) between the panes; two webs (3) that project above the rear wall (5) of the hollow section (1) are provided, each of which forms a boundary of a sealant-filled space (24), which is bounded on the opposite side by a pane (20); the outer surface (17) of the rear wall (5) is not covered with sealant between the webs (3); and the webs (3) are oriented parallel to the panes (20) or are inclined towards each other, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein to provide a sufficiently large space (24) for holding the sealant, the part of the rear wall (5) that lies outside the webs (3) is formed as a step (28) that lies at a lower level.
2. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the webs (3) have a length (L1) of at least 1.5 mm.

3. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with Claim 2,
~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the webs (3) have a
length (L1) of at most 5 mm.
4. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with Claim 2,
~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the webs (3) of a
flexible spacer have a length (L1) of 1.5 to 3 mm.
5. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to~~
~~4, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the closed
hollow section has an interior space (4) with a rectangular
cross section, such that the interior space (4) is bounded in
the direction of the space (21) between the panes by an inner
wall (6) that is provided with perforations (14), and the side
walls (10) and the adjacent panes (20) form a space (23) for the
sealant.
6. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with Claim 5,
~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the lower corner (25) of
the side wall (10) is formed in such a way that it constitutes a
lower boundary (26) for the space (23).

7. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with Claim 5,
~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the sealant in the space
(23) is a primary sealant, preferably butyl sealant, and the
sealant in the space (24) is a secondary sealant, preferably
polysulfide, polyurethane, or silicone.
8. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to~~
~~7, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the visible
surface (7) of the inner wall (6) of the hollow section (1) is
provided with two shadow grooves (15), into which the ends of
the webs (3) of the hollow section (1') fit when the hollow
sections (1, 1') are stacked.
9. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to~~
~~8, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein it consists
of metal, preferably aluminum or an aluminum alloy.
10. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to~~
~~8, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein it consists
of metal, preferably steel or high-grade steel.
11. (Currently Amended) Spacer in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to~~
~~8, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein it consists
of coextruded plastic.